Hold Secret Parleys on JFK Book

PLAN TO PUBLISH

West German magazine Stern announces plan to publish uncut serialization of Kennedy book. Story on page 2.

New York, Dec. 22 (AP)—Secret meetings were under way today to clear the controversial book "The Death of a President" for publication by Harper & Row in April. Lawyers were granted four additional days to work out an agreement.

The meetings follow a compromise last night between representatives of Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Cowles Communications, Inc., allowing the 80,000-word, four-part series to begin in the Jan. 10 issue of Look magazine.

Look agreed to make some changes and deletions in William Manchester's book concerning the private life of Mrs. Kennedy and her two children.

Deals with Slaying

Sections of the book reportedly unfavorable to President Johnson will remain. The book deals with events surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy.

It was learned today, meanwhile, that Mrs. Kennedy and her children, Caroline and John Jr., are booked on a flight to Antigua, British West Indies, on Dec. 26. This is the day before a scheduled hearing in her damage suit against Cowles, Harper & Row, and Manchester.

A source close to the dispute said today's meetings "at this point are limited to the lawyers." He said others—apparently representatives of Mrs. Kennedy and the publishers—may be brought into the meetings later.

Meet in Chambers

The source noted, however, that an agreement is unlikely to be reached today because the 300,000-word book is nearly four times longer than the serialization. "There is additional material which the Kennedys will want out," he said.

The lawyers in the case met for 15 minutes this morning in the chambers of Justice Saul S. Streit of the Supreme court.

The defense attorneys asked

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LAWYERS SEEK AGREEMENT ON KENNEDY BOOK

Given 4 Extra Days to Reach Settlement

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for and were granted permission to delay their answers to Mrs. Kennedy's charges in her damage suit until Dec. 27. The answers had been due Friday. The delay is an indication that negotiations may be extended over several days.

Edward S. Greenbaum, chief counsel for Harper & Row, said earlier that the publishers "will be very glad" to settle the controversy with Mrs. Kennedy along the lines of her out-of-court agreement with Look.

Look, which paid Manchester $665,000 for serial rights, sold foreign rights to a number of publications.

Despite efforts by Mrs. Kennedy to delete passages in Manchester's book that she considered private, sources in the publishing field said it was almost certain that bootleg copies of the manuscript were sold to outlaw publishers in Formosa.

Printed in Papers

Government sources said in Taipei today, however, that the Chinese nationalist government probably would block any attempt to issue an unauthorized edition of the book.

In addition, many of the disputed passages from the manuscript—or passages purported to be from the manuscript—have been widely printed in newspapers here and abroad.

It also was reported today that at least one counterfeit copy of the manuscript was in circulation in New York.